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Message Text

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: CBS RADIO, FIRST LINE REPORT, "THE KISSINGER STEWARDSHIP"

NO. 14

KALB'S FIRST LINE REPORT WAS AS FOLLOWS: "THERE WERE NO DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS, BUT THE SCHEDULE IS CROWDED.

IT HAPPENS EVERY MORNING. THE PRESS OFFICE AT STATE DEPT PUTS OUT A LIST OF DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS, -- WHO IS ON THE SECSTATE'S SCHEDULE, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S, THE UNDER SECRETARIES, THE ASST SECRETARIES. SOME DAYS THE LIST IS LONG, OTHER DAYS SHORT -- RARELY IS IT COMPLETE. SECRECY IS STILL AT THE CORE OF DIPLOMACY. SO, IT WAS INTERESTING YESTERDAY WHEN PRESS OFFICE PUT OUT ITS LIST, BUT THERE WERE NO APPOINTMENTS ON IT. NONE WHATSOEVER. AND THIS, AT SAME TIME THAT KISSINGER WAS PUTTING HIS FAMOUS 'SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL' ON THE SECRETARY'S PLANE TO ETERNAL REST, AND, AS PHOTOGRAPHERS CLICKED AWAY DURING A PICTURE TAKING SESSION IN BRUSSELS, HE QUIPPED, ,THEY SEEM TO BE PHOTOGRAPHING ME AS IF I'M A CORPSE.'"
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KISSINGER IS GIVEN TO OVERSTATEMENTS, AND THAT IS SIMPLY ANOTHER EXAMPLE. EVEN AFTER HE LEAVES OFFICE, HE WILL BE FAR FROM A DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL CORPSE. HIS EXPERIENCE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, AND HIS SUCCESSOR CYRUS VANCE HAS ALREADY SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE KISSINGER'S GREAT, GREAT TALENTS. THERE

ARE MANY THINGS KISSINGER WOULD LIKE HISTORIANS TO NOTE WHEN TIME COMES FOR THEM TO WRITE ABOUT HIS STEWARDSHIP OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. AMONG THEM, A STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA; AN OPENING TO CHINA; HIS SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY IN THE ME. MORE THAN ANYTHING, PERHAPS, -- HIS STEERING THE U. S. AWAY FROM OLD CLICHES OF COLD WAR TOWARDS A MORE REALISTIC APPRECIATION OF THE SHIFTING BAL-ANCES OF POWER IN THE WORLD.

HIS ROLE IN VIETNAM FIGHTS THIS JUDGMENT, THOUGH HE WILL NO DOUBT OFFER HIS OWN PERSPECTIVE ON THIS CONTROVERSIAL ASPECT OF HIS CAREER WHEN HE WRITES HIS OWN MEMOIRS IN A YEAR OR TWO. THAT HE MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION FEW WOULD DENY. AND THE WARM RECEPTION HE RECEIVED FROM HIS COLLE-AGUES AT HIS VALEDICTORY APPEARANCE BEFORE THE NATO TODAY, A TEST TO THE IMPORTANCE EUROPEANS PLACE UPON KISSINGER'S ROLE IN AMERICAN POLICY.

FOR THIS REASON, AMONG MANY OTHERS, IT CAME AS LITTLE SUR-PRISE THAT SECRETARY'S NAME HAS ALREADY BEEN FLOATED AS A POSSIBLE SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE ME ONCE CARTER PECOMES PRESIDENT CARTER. KISSINGER HAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO HELP, BUT THAT HE FEELS THE NEW PRESIDENT AND THE NEW SECRETARY OUGHT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN CRED-ENTIALS AND SET THEIR OWN POLICY LINES FIRST. IN THIS CONNECTION, THERE WAS ONE REPORT OUT OF ISRAEL THAT VANCE, THE NEW SECRETARY, MIGHT MAKE AN EXPLORATORY TRIP TO THE ME SOON AFTER THE CARTER INAUGURATION. HIS AIDES SAY NO SUCH TRIP, EXPLORATORY OR OTHERWISE, IS BEING PLANNED. VANCE HAS SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO DELEGATE THAT KIND OF RESPONSIBILITY.

JOSEPH KRAFT THE COLUMNIST HAS PROPOSED A SIMILAR IDEA,
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ONLY IN REVERSE, -- THAT THE ME, IN EFFECT, COME TO WASHINGTON EARLY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION; THAT THE LEA-DERS OF EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN AND ISRAEL CONFER WITH CARTER AND VANCE AND EXPLAIN THEIR POSITIONS IN DETAIL BEFORE A GENEVA CONFERENCE IS CONVENED, AND BEFORE THE U.S. TAKES A POSITION OF ITS OWN.

THE POINT IS THAT THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE AREA COME UP WITH

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THEIR OWN IDEAS FOR PEACE. THAT SUITS THE ISRAELIS, BUT
IT MAY NOT SUIT THE ARABS. THEY HAVE TENDED TO CALL FOR A
PEACE IMPOSED BY THE SUPERPOWERS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT
BOTH SIDES TO ME CONFLICT ARE TRYING TO MAKE BEST IMPRES-
SION ON CARTER ADMINISTRATION, AND THEREFORE, AN OPPORTUNIT

FOR PROGRESS EXISTS. HOW ONE PROCEEDS IS CRUCIAL.

ROBINSON

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